WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A medical data preservation system comprising:

a medical data receiving means for receiving electronic medical data including medical information over a communication line;

a medical data storage means in which the medical data received by said medical data receiving means is stored;

a storage condition designating means for use in designating a condition for storage in said medical data storage means; and

a control means for controlling the data-stored state of said medical data storage means according to the condition for storage designated at said storage condition designating means.

2. A medical data preservation method comprising:

a medical data receiving step of receiving electronic medical data including medical information over a communication line;

a medical data storing step of storing the medical data received at said medical data receiving step in a medical data storage means;

a storage condition designating step of designating a condition for storage in said medical data storage means;

and

a control step of controlling the data-stored state of said medical data storage means according to the condition for storage designated at said storage condition designating step.

3. A medical data preservation method for controlling backup of medical image data using a programmed computer, comprising the steps of:

selecting a backup mode in which medical image data is backed up;

backing up medical image data in a selected backup mode;

performing accounting according to the selected backup mode.

4. A medical data preservation system comprising:

an image backup device for preserving a backup copy of medical image data over a network over which information can be transferred; and

a control means for controlling the image backup device according to a backup mode.

5. A medical data preservation system according to Claim 4, wherein the backup mode is determined through

discussion between a service provider and a service receiver.

6. A medical data preservation system according to Claim 5, wherein said control means controls a plurality of objects of backup, controls the objects of backup according to a determined backup mode, and performs accounting on each object of backup.

7. A medical data preservation system according to Claim 4, wherein said control means controls said image backup device according to a backup mode, and performs accounting according to the backup mode.

8. A medical data preservation system according to Claim 7, wherein said backup mode is determined through discussion between a service provider and a service receiver.

9. A medical data preservation system according to Claim 8, wherein said control means can control a plurality of objects of backup, controls the objects of backup according to a determined backup mode, and performs accounting on each object of backup.

10. A medical data preservation method comprising:
a method of backing up medical image data, which is

stored in a storage device, in an image backup device over a network; and

a method of selecting a backup mode from among a plurality of backup modes, and designating the selected backup mode as the backing up method.

11. A medical data preservation method according to Claim 10, wherein the medical image data is stored in said storage device, and backed up in said image backup device.

12. A medical data preservation method according to Claim 10, wherein all of medical image data stored in said storage device is backed up at a time in an image backup device at any set time.

13. A medical data preservation method according to Claim 10, wherein all of medical image data stored in said storage device and acquired at each medical institution is backed up at a time in an image backup device.

14. A medical data preservation method according to Claim 10, wherein all of medical image data stored in said storage device is backed up for each patient at a time in an image backup device.

15. A medical data preservation method according to Claim 10, wherein all of medical image data stored in said storage device is backed up for each examination at a time in an image backup device.

16. A medical data preservation method according to Claim 10, wherein the backup mode is selected and designated based on a backup period and/or an amount of data to be backed up.

17. A medical data preservation method comprising:

a method of backing up medical image data, stored in a storage device in an image backup device over a network;

a method of selecting a backup mode from among a plurality of backup modes and designating the selected backup mode as the backing up method; and

a method of performing accounting so as to calculate a charge for backup according to the selected backup mode.

18. A medical data preservation method according to Claim 17, wherein the charge for backup calculated as a product of an accounting point, depending on a backup mode, a period during which backup is continued, and a backup rate.